

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

NOTE: This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794. The transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET NOFORN DISSEM
SECRET/NO FORN DISSEM

(Classification and Control Markings)

This report contains unprocessed information.
Plans and/or policies should not be evolved
or modified solely on the basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: BOLIVIA

8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 902 0321 71

2. SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding Death
of Che GUEVARA (C)

9. DATE OF REPORT: 2 July 1971

3. ISC NUMBER:

10. NO. OF PAGES: 2

11. REFERENCES: DIRM 1C2b

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 16 June 1971

12. ORIGINATOR: USDAO Caracas

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: Caracas; 16 Jun 71

13. PREPARED BY: DONALD R. MOORE

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE 2 INFORMATION 3

COL, USA ARMA

7. SOURCE: 25X1DIA14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: H.L. KIRKPATRICK
COL, USAF
Acting Defense Attache

REC'D 09 09 1071

15. SUMMARY:

(CNF) Report forwards synopsis of conversation Colonel Federico BRAVO, new DIA
Bolivian Military Attache in Caracas, BRAVO 25X1
stated he was involved in the killing of Che GUEVARA.

(Leave Blank)

25X1DIA

901210-731

216

1. (CNF) Colonel Federico BRAVO, Bolivian MILATT in Caracas, had a long 25X1DIA
conversation with on 16 June 1971. In course of conversation
BRAVO stated the following: He was in command of the division, an element of
which captured Che GUEVARA. In the incident 15 Bolivian guerrillas were killed,
3 escaped, and Che was wounded in the leg. He stated when he received the report
Che had been captured, he was skeptical and went to the location and actually
saw Che. Colonel BRAVO revealed he immediately notified his higher headquarters
and the President of BOLIVIA. Then, according to BRAVO it was ordered that Che
would be "eliminated" after the President and the Minister of Defense saw him
in person. When the President and Minister left, Col BRAVO selected an army
captain to kill Che.

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

USCINCSO
USARSO
USDAO La Paz
AEMB Caracas

17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

GROUP 3
DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.

18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

NONE

DIA review(s)
completed.

SECRET NOFORN DISSEM

Approved For Release 2002/08/21 : CIA-RDP85-00671R000300070013-0

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

CONTINUATION SHEET

SECRET/NO FORN DISSEM

REPORT NO. 6 902 0321 71

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

ORIGINATOR USDAO Caracas

SECRET NOFORN DISSEM

(Classification and Control Markings)

(Leave Blank)

2. (SNF) Col BRAVO related the Captain and his group forced Che to move along in front of them and he was shot in the back. BRAVO states Che knew of their intent and wept and pleaded for his life stating he was worth more alive than dead. This weak showing by Che disgusted the Bolivians.

3. (SNF) According to Bravo, Che's body was burned and cremated to preclude his remains from being used by the Communists for martyrdom. BRAVO stated the parents of Che went to claim the remains but were turned down. They were not told of the cremation, but were simply informed Che was "killed in action". BRAVO states the Bolivian government fears any pressure on it to return his remains as the cremation is purportedly a closely-held secret.

4. (C) Bio notes on Col BRAVO [REDACTED] BRAVO is an opportunist and is a fence straddler. He stated most of his assignments were based on "expediciencies". He was a 1963-1964 member of the C&GSC class at the School of the Americas. He stayed on as a guest instructor. He was a classmate of Barrientos. He was the Army G4, then J4 and commanded a division for two years. He expects a promotion in Dec 71. His family are middle classed. BRAVO is the homely type. A son is a student in the Bolivian Air Force Academy. A daughter, 22, is in California USA, employed by a "geodetic" firm. BRAVO was embittered at the poor reception he received by the Venezuelan MOD.

25X1DIA

SECRET/NO FORN DISSEM

Approved For Release 2002/08/21 : CIA-RDP85-00671R000300070013-0

SECRET

NOFORN DISSEM